

Delivering the History curriculum through Ireland

Year 8

Britain 1500-1750

Uniting the United Kingdom

Workbook

by

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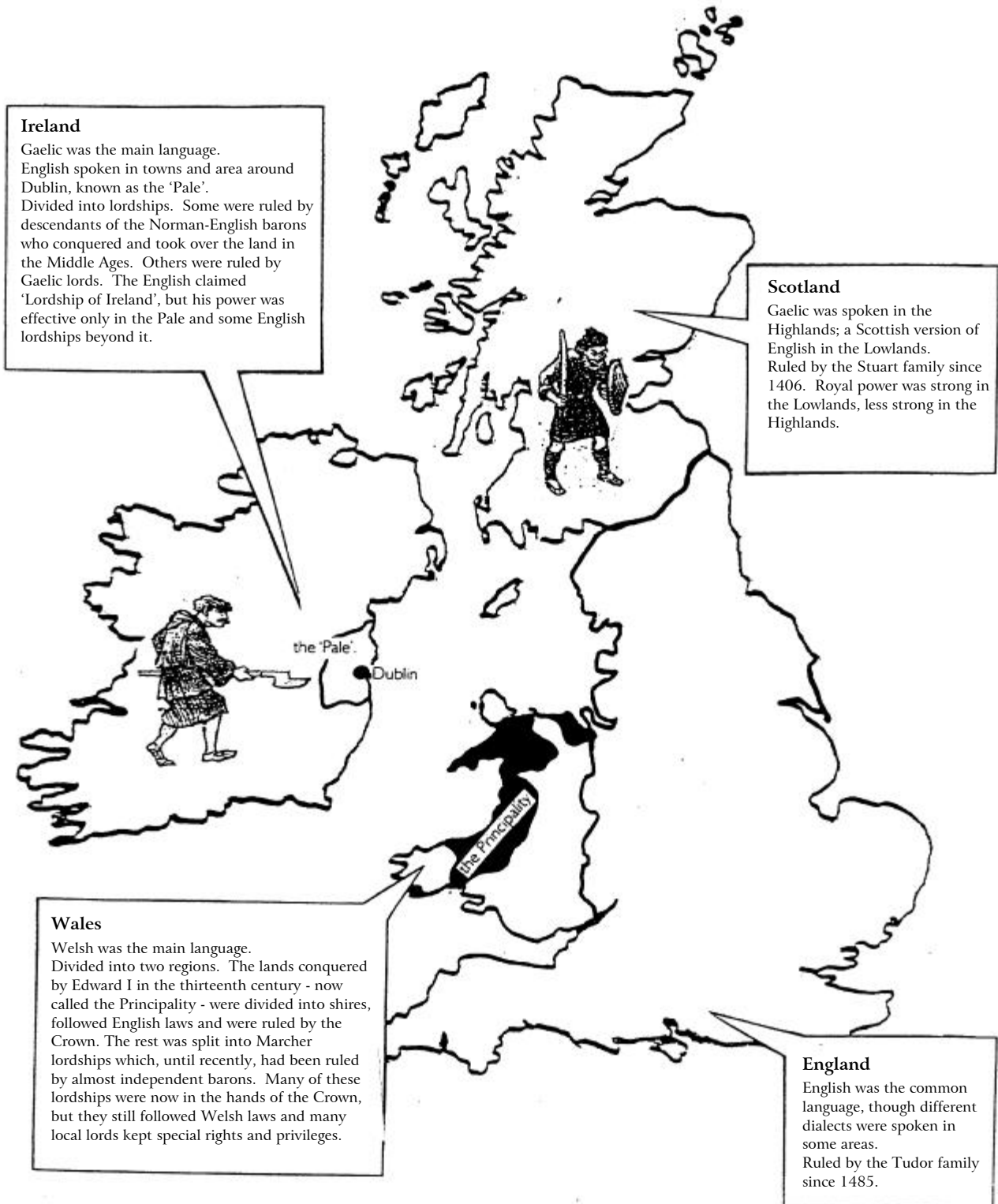


Contents

1. The British Isles in 1500
2. Uniting the United Kingdom
3. Cromwell in Ireland: interpretations - hero or villain?
4. Cromwell in Ireland: can Cromwell's action in Ireland be justified?

1. The British Isles in 1500

In 1509 Henry VIII became King of England and Wales, and Lord of Ireland. The other kingdom in the British Isles was Scotland which James IV had ruled since 1488.



A. Answer these questions in your exercise books.

1. Which enemy of England was allied to Scotland?
2. Name the two regions into which Wales was divided.
3. Which two regions of Wales followed Welsh laws in 1500?
4. Which English King had conquered Wales? In which century had this happened?
5. Who ruled the Irish lordships?
6. Who claimed 'Lordship of Ireland'?
7. In which part of Ireland was the power of the English king effective?

B. Colour in the four countries which made up the British Isles in 1500.

Use RED to colour in those areas under TOTAL control of the Tudors.

Use BLUE to colour in those areas where Tudors had SOME control.

Use YELLOW to colour in those areas where the Tudor had NO control.

The British Isles in 1500

Complete the profiles of the four countries.

Name of kingdom

Main language

Other languages

Royal family name



Name of kingdom

Main language

Other languages



Name of kingdom

Main language

Other languages

Royal family name



Name of kingdom

Main language

Other languages

Royal family name

2. Uniting the United Kingdom

Some key events in the unification of the United Kingdom

<p>1534 Henry VIII breaks with the Catholic Church. The Irish remain Catholic.</p> <p>1535 An Irish revolt is put down by the English</p> <p>1537 An Act of Parliament is passed forcing everyone in Ireland to speak English.</p> <p>1549 A special edition of the Protestant Prayer Book is prepared for the Welsh and the Irish in their own language.</p>	1500	<p>1541 Henry VIII declares himself King of Ireland but Ireland remains a separate kingdom with its own Parliament</p>
<p>1558 Mary Queen of Scots marries Francis, soon to be King of France.</p>	1600	<p>1536 and 1543 Acts of Union between Wales and England are passed by the English government. They simply make Wales a part of England. English law now applies throughout the country. Wales also elects MPs to Parliament in London just as all regions of England do. No attempt is made to force the Welsh to use the English language. Welsh language and culture flourish, so Wales is still different from England.</p> <p>1560 Francis dies. Mary returns to Scotland. Protestants depose here from the Scottish throne.</p>
<p>1587 Catholics plot to make Mary Queen of England in place of Elizabeth. The rebellion fails. It leads to Mary's execution.</p>		<p>1595 Catholic rebellion begins in Ireland</p>
<p>1601 Catholic rebels, supported by Spain, are defeated in Ireland. Elizabeth takes land from Catholics and gives it to her Protestant supporters.</p>		<p>1603 Mary Queen of Scots' son, James, King of Scotland, becomes King of England as well. But England and Scotland keep their own Parliaments and are still separate countries.</p>
<p>1638 Riots break out in Scotland against the introduction of the English Prayer Book. The Scots invade northern England.</p> <p>1649 Oliver Cromwell orders massacres of Catholics in Ireland.</p>		<p>1641 Irish Catholics rebel with much burning, looting and murder</p>
<p>1689 English army invades Ireland.</p>	1700	<p>1691 English arm finally defeats the Irish army and the French army that has been supporting the Irish rebels. Protestants now rule Ireland in their own Parliament.</p>
<p>1707 An Act of Union between England and Scotland is passed. The two countries now share the same Parliament and government. This union is not accepted by the Highlanders in Scotland.</p>		<p>1715 A Scottish rebellion is defeated</p>
<p>1800 An Act of Union is passed, uniting the Kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland is passed. England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales now share the same Parliament and government.</p>		<p>1745 Another Scottish rebellion if defeated</p>

3. Cromwell in Ireland

Interpretations - hero or villain?

Read the following information sheet, 'Cromwell in Ireland', then answer the following questions in FULL SENTENCES:

1. Use the background information to help you describe what happened in the Irish Rebellion.
2. Read Source 2.
What is the English interpretation of events?
3. Do any other sources support (back up) this point of view? Explain why.
4. Read Source 4.
What is the Irish interpretation of the events?
5. Do any other sources support (back up) this point of view? Explain why.
6. Explain in detail WHY you think there are such conflicting interpretations of the SAME event.
7. From the evidence and your own knowledge, say whether you think Oliver Cromwell was a hero or a villain.

Cromwell in Ireland - background and sources

Background information

1. The Irish Catholics had rebelled against English rule in 1641. According to the English, they had committed many brutal and cruel acts. But nothing could be done about the Irish rebellion until the English Civil War is over.
2. The Catholics in Ireland supported Charles I's son. They thought he should be King of England and in 1649 the leader of the Irish Catholics, the Marquis of Ormonde, was in France collecting soldiers and weapons. He might launch an invasion from Ireland. As you can see from the map in Source 1, Ireland posed a real threat to Cromwell and his supporters.
3. In 1649 Cromwell landed in Ireland with an army of 12,000 men. His first target was the town of Drogheda, which was defended by part of Ormonde's army led by Sir Arthur Aston. Sources 2-5 tell you what happened next.

There are two important seventeenth-century rules of warfare you need to know about:

- A successful army could give 'quarter' to the enemy. This meant the enemy surrendered and gave up their weapons. It was then wrong to kill them.
- If an attacking army broke into a town and the defenders did not surrender, the defenders could all be put to death

Source 1 Ireland in 1649

- Controlled by Irish rebels
- Mainly under Parliament's control



Source 2 Cromwell's letter to the House of Commons, 17 September 1649

Our army came to Drogheda on 3 September. On Monday 9th the battering guns began. I sent Sir Arthur Aston a request to surrender the town.

Receiving no satisfactory answer, the guns beat down the corner tower.

On Tuesday 10th, after some hot fighting, we entered.

Our men were ordered by me to put all to the sword. I also forbade them to spare any people in the town who had weapons.

In the great church almost 1000 of them were put to the sword, fleeing there for safety. I think that night we put to the sword in all about 2000 men. This is the righteous judgement of God upon those barbarous wretches who have dipped their hands in so much innocent blood.

Source 4 Written by Clarendon in 1668-70. He was in France with Charles I's son at the time of the Irish rebellion. He was a friend of Ormonde.

The soldiers threw down their arms on an offer of quarter. The enemy entered Mill Mount without resistance. They put every soldier to the sword and all the citizens who were Irish, man, woman and child.

Source 3 An English engraving of the attack



Source 5 From a letter written by the Marquis of Ormonde, 29 September 1649

Cromwell's soldiers promised to spare the lives of any who laid down their arms. But when they had all their power, the word 'No quarter' went round.

4. Cromwell in Ireland

Can Cromwell's action in Ireland be justified?

Yes

This interpretation says that Cromwell should be judged by the standards of his own time. It says Cromwell's actions can be partly justified in the following ways:

1. *The Ulster killings of 1641*

The English hated the Catholic Irish because they believed they had massacred many thousands of Protestants in Ulster when the rebellion began in 1641. Like most English people, Cromwell believed the Irish should be punished for this. He told Irish Catholic priests:

You, unprovoked, put the English to the most unheard of and most barbarous massacre (without respect of sex or age) that ever the sun beheld.

Declaration to the Irish Catholic clergy, 1650

2. *The rules of war*

Everyone in the seventeenth century accepted that there were special rules of war in the case of a siege. First, the attacking commander had to summon, or order, the town to surrender. If the defending commander refused and the town was then captured by breaking down the walls and storming in, the defenders could be killed. If the town surrendered before the walls were broken through, the defenders were given 'quarter' - that is, they were spared. These rules were intended to encourage towns to surrender quickly in order to avoid the bloodshed that resulted from an attack.

Cromwell did summon Drogheda to surrender. Sir Arthur Aston, its commander, refused the summons. Cromwell then ordered the defenders to be given no quarter. He did not directly order women, children or priests to be killed; but civilians were bound to be caught up in the confusion.

3. *Preventing further bloodshed*

Cromwell believed the killings would save further bloodshed by persuading other towns to surrender. After the siege he said the killings:

Will tend to prevent the effusion [spilling] of blood for the future.

Cromwell, Letter to the Speaker of Parliament, 17 September, 1649

After this, several towns did give in without a fight. Cromwell therefore made a correct military decision.

No

This interpretation says that Cromwell should be condemned, even by the standards of his own time. The reasons are:

1. *The Irish: a non-people?*

Cromwell did not think of the Irish as human beings with rights. He treated them differently from other enemies, for example the Scots. His feelings about punishing the Irish for the Ulster killings of 1641 caused him to view all Irish people in the same way and make no distinction between soldiers and civilians. He was out for revenge. After Drogheda there was another massacre at Wexford which he did not order, but did not stop either. He said the families killed had been:

Made with their bloods to answer [pay for] the cruelties which they had exercised [carried out] upon the lives of... poor Protestants.

Cromwell, letter to the Speaker of the Parliament of England, 14 October 1649

He went on to say that since there were now so many empty homes, it would be a good idea for Protestant colonists to go and settle there. He appeared to have no feeling for the victims' suffering. In another letter, he wrote with horror about the things Catholics did to Protestants; but he showed no sense of horror at the actions of his own soldiers.

2. *The rules of war*

The rules about sieges were not always applied. Cromwell could have given quarter if he had wanted to. He certainly ought to have stopped the killing of civilians. He probably would have done if they had not been Irish.

3. *The wrong way to prevent bloodshed*

Cromwell's argument that the killings saved more lives later is the same argument used to justify dropping two atomic bombs on Japanese cities in 1945 in order to end the Second World War. But, is it ever justifiable to kill civilians for such a purpose? In any case, some towns still did not surrender even after Drogheda.

Tasks

1. Draw a table to indicate the two arguments about Cromwell's actions: for example,

Yes	No

2. Do you think Cromwell as right in to do what he did? Explain your answer using the evidence from this work sheet.